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11 August 1957

SC No. 04429/57

Copy No. 136

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 36
NO. OF COPIES IN CLASS. X
IT IS UNCLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS SC
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 4-1-80 REVIEWER: 372044

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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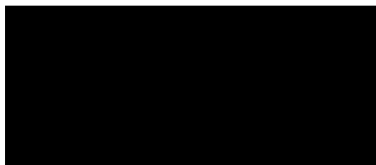
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3. PEIPING ORDERS NEW MASS CAMPAIGN FOR PEASANT COOPERATION

Comment on:

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Orders from the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party for a mass effort in "socialist education" among China's 500,000,000 peasants indicate Peiping's growing concern over possible failure of the Communist program in rural areas. A directive issued on 8 August calls for immediate action at all levels of the party to push on with discussions which will give the peasants a "true appreciation" of the superiority of cooperatives, the necessity for government purchasing and marketing of farm products, the relations between urban workers and peasants, and the importance of suppressing counterrevolution.

The meetings, which will be held in all villages and cooperative farms, will concentrate first on the grain delivery question, which is to be dealt with "before the autumn harvest" due to begin within the next month. The people are to be warned that unless the problem is solved many will face "starvation and ruin." Other matters will be taken up in "good time."

This emphasis reflects Peiping's concern because state procurement of grain, on which the entire economic development program depends, is lagging badly. Peiping has complained that many cooperatives are falsifying production figures in order to withhold grain for more lucrative sales on the open market. The demoralizing prospect of a poor crop for the second straight year will probably accentuate this trend.

While the emphasis of the directive is on persuasion, reactionaries and counterrevolutionary elements are to be silenced at once and the masses encouraged to demand "necessary control." Mass meetings perhaps similar to those used to enforce the bloody land reform campaign which ended in 1953 are to be held "when necessary." (CONFIDENTIAL)